

the transformers, switch-gear and lightning arresters are of the outdoor type. The receiving station at Coimbatore is also of the outdoor type and contains 4 banks of transformers each of 3,000 KVA. 66,000 volts' 22,000 volts' 11,000 volts. A double circuit 66,000 volts transmission line leads to Tiruppur and Erode, which at present are operating at 22,000 volts. In addition to this there are sub-stations at Erode, Tiruppur,

Pollachi, Palghat and Iyerpad; the last one for tea factories in the Annamalais. Erode is connected to Salem and Metur and Pykara to Ooty directly.

There are possibilities of power being taken to Cochin, Travancore, Madras and Trichinopoly. When Metur Power Station is linked with Pykara, a 110,000 volt line will supply power to Madras City also.

Diffusion of Diseases.

THE League of Nations Regional Health Conference which met at Cape Town in November last year discussed the extension of yellow fever beyond barriers heretofore effective, but rendered possible by the improved methods of travel by railway trains, aeroplanes and motor cars. Major-General J. D. Graham's report points out the danger of the extension of this disease from West Africa to East Africa and from there to the Asiatic countries, and emphasizes the need of adopting suitable measures to combat the possibilities of the introduction of this new scourge into India.

Almost every mechanical invention seems to contain the germs which endanger human life and we realize the risks only after the invention has been harnessed for the service of mankind. The steam engine which introduced the industrial revolution, possessed enormous potentialities for opening up the countries for economic and cultural development and few could suspect at the moment that railway service would become the means for the spread of diseases. Wherever man moves, he carries with him obviously, in spite of the greatest precautions, the vectors of disease and especially where services are introduced for carrying large masses of population occupying different hygienic levels, the danger of a rapid spread of infection, is real and acute. If railway trains are intended to promote wider human intercourse, to develop trade and commerce, to carry knowledge and civilization to remote parts of the country, they have been the effective means of equalizing the incidence of diseases also. In spite of the utmost precautionary measures, diseases escape the vigilance of custom house offices without paying the duties. Nature seems to mock at

us in our efforts to secure only the good and eschew the bad and if the facilities of rapid transport confer a boon on us, we have to be prepared to accept the evils brought in its train. Medical research and the quarantine regulations may mitigate their severity but cannot avoid them.

Probably in the case of yellow fever we have in our power the means of effectively combating its extension. We know the breeding habits of the different species of mosquitoes and the researches of the Ross Institute have placed at our disposal the remedial measures for controlling or destroying the entire mosquito population. Malaria is now well under control and Medical Science should be engaged not only in restricting the spread of yellow fever but in totally wiping it out, for so long as it is permitted to exist even in remote and isolated tracts, its extension to wider areas is almost a certainty. Civil aviation which links up the large towns where sanitary arrangements are satisfactory, is not the real source of danger, but flights undertaken to establish records and those in the nature of sensational stunts constitute a real menace, especially when there is a forcible landing in inhospitable and disease-ridden country. In India, the introduction and rapid extension of bus traffic, which has undoubtedly opened up the country side, has become the means of disseminating diseases. The problems of cultural development and the promotion of commerce and trade are closely associated with those of the preservation of health and physical efficiency of man and Science cannot afford to relax its vigilance or view with detached interest the rapid extension of traffic in the country.